Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 04350 211933Z ACTION ARA-14

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R 211845Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9309
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, PINT, ES, HO

SUBJ: VISIT OF BORDER MEDIATOR TO EL SALVADOR

REF SAN SALVADOR 4077

1. DR. JOSE LUIS BUSTAMANTE Y RIVERO, MEDIATOR IN EL SALVADOR/HONDURAS BORDER DISPUTE, ARRIVED SAN SALVADOR FROM PERU AFTERNOON MONDAY, AUG 14. HE WAS MET BY FOREIGN MINISTER RODRIGUEZ PORTH, MEMBERS OF EL SALVADOR'S NEGOTIATING TEAM, AND OTHER OFFICIALS. THROUGHOUT COURSE OF SIX-DAY VISIT, BUSTAMANTE Y RIVERO RECEIVED FULL RED-CARPET TREATMENT BY GOES AND WIDE AND UNFAILINGLY FAVORABLE COVERAGE BY MEDIA.

2. MEDIATOR MET WITH PRESIDENT ROMERO FOR ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS MORNING AUG 15 FOR FIRST OF SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH TOP ECHELONS OF GOES TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND A FEW NON-GOVERNMENTAL SOURCES. DISCUSSIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 SAN SA 04350 211933Z

WERE ALL CLOSED TO PRESS AND PUBLIC, BUT POSITIVE AND OPTIMISTIC STATEMENTS RELEASED FOLLOWING ALL MEETINGS. PRESIDENT SET TENOR OF STATEMENTS BY PRAISING DISTINGUISHED BACKGROUND, IMPARTIALITY AND ABILITY OF MEDIATOR AND PRESIDENT'S CONFIDENCE IN ABILITY OF BUSTAMANTE Y RIVERO TO SUCCESSFULLY RESOLVE EXISTING DIFFERENCES.

- 3. MEDIATOR ALSO VISITED AND HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, PRESIDENT OF SUPREME COURT, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, LEADERSHIP OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND OTHERS. IN EVERY CASE, STATEMENTS ISSUED AND WIDELY PUBLICIZED WERE FILLED WITH PRAISE FOR MEDIATOR AND EXPRESSIONS OF OPTIMISM ON BOTH SIDES. BUSTAMANTE Y RIVERO CONCLUDED HIS SIX-DAY STAY IN SAN SALVADOR WITH PRIME TIME TELEVISION BROADCASE, ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER, IN WHICH HE AGAIN EXPRESSED OPTIMISM FOR SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.
- 4. COMMENT. AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, VERY LITTLE OF SUBSTANTIVE NATURE ACCOMPLISHED DURING MEDIATOR'S VISIT. HOWEVER, WIDE AND FAVORABLE PUBLICITY WAS GIVEN BUSTAMANTE Y RIVERO VISIT AND MEDIATOR HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW ALL MAJOR FIGURES ON SALVADORAN SIDE. DEVINE

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TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, PINT, ES, HO, (BUSTAMANTE Y RIVERO, JOSE LOUIS)

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